

(Continued from front cover)

slowed crop growth in **California's Central Valley**, but hot, dry conditions further increased irrigation requirements and fostered the spread of wildfires in the **Southwest**. Hot weather briefly overspread the **northern and central Plains** and **upper Midwest**, hastening winter wheat maturation but depleting topsoil moisture. Weekly temperatures averaged up to 9°F above normal in **Wyoming**. **Corn Belt** high temperatures above 90°F were largely confined to western areas, including still-dry southwestern sections (**southeastern Nebraska, southwestern Iowa, and northwestern Missouri**). On the **southern Plains**, the late-week arrival of widespread showers aided summer crops but slowed the rapid pace of winter wheat harvesting. After midweek, tropical showers spread inland across the **western Gulf Coast** region, generally benefiting pastures and summer crops, but halting fieldwork and causing localized flooding.

During the early- to midweek period, hot weather expanded from the **Southwest**, reaching the **northern half of the Plains** and **upper Midwest** and producing more than 100 daily-record highs. In **Utah**, **Bullfrog** opened the week with four consecutive daily-record highs (100, 97, 100, and 101°F from June 4-7). Meanwhile, record heat replaced an early-week chill across the **North-Central States**. In **Nebraska**, **Valentine's** daily-record high of 102°F on June 8 came just 3 days after a daily-record low of 32°F. **Scottsbluff, NE** notched three consecutive record highs (100, 100, and 102°F from June 6-8). Elsewhere in **Nebraska**, **North Platte** and **McCook** (both 104°F) posted daily-record highs on June 7. A day later, highs in **South Dakota** soared to 107°F in **Pierre**, 106°F in **Phillip**, and 103°F in **Mitchell**. **Pierre's** high followed a daily-record low of 37°F on June 5. Across the **western Corn Belt**, highs on Thursday reached daily-record levels in **Redwood Falls, MN** (101°F) and **Sioux City, IA** (99°F).

Cool weather in the **South** and **East** (more than 50 daily-record lows) contrasted sharply with the heat farther west. From June 6-8, both **Fayetteville, AR** (44, 44, and 45°F) and **Jackson, TN** (49, 44, and 50°F) tallied three consecutive record lows. Earlier in the week, lows had dipped to daily-record levels across the **Nation's northern tier**. On Monday, lows in **Minnesota** included 22°F in **Tower** and 32°F in **Duluth**. Farther east, **Caribou, ME** noted 33°F.

Heavy rain and gusty winds overspread the **Northeast** on Tuesday, accompanied by very cool weather. On June 6, **Albany, NY** netted 3.30 inches of rain and had a high of 53°F. **Albany's** normal June rainfall is 3.62 inches. Also on Tuesday, **Boston, MA** clocked a 51 mph wind gust and collected 4.00 inches of rain. Farther west, unseasonably heavy showers overspread **northern and central California** on Thursday, resulting in daily-record totals in **Fresno** (0.56 inch) and **Redding** (0.69 inch). In addition, **Fresno's** high temperature on Thursday was only 69°F.

Meanwhile, only light showers dampened the **lower Southeast**. **New Orleans, LA** received 0.99 inch during the week, lifting their year-to-date total to 8.66 inches (32 percent of normal). In **Florida**, **Tampa's** monthly rainfall remained a trace through week's end, leaving their January 1 - June 10 total at 3.11 inches (22 percent of normal). **Tampa's** last measurable rainfall occurred on May 10.

Tropical showers overspread the **western Gulf Coast States** toward week's end, bringing another round of locally heavy showers to the region. Weekly rainfall exceeded 4 inches in parts of **south-central Texas** and totaled at least 2 inches as far northeast as the **Arklatex region**. Month-to-date (June 1-10) rainfall reached 4.91 inches in **San Antonio, TX**, 4.09 inches in **Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX**, and 2.51 inches in **McAlester, OK**. Farther north, showers returned to much of the **Corn Belt** at week's end, replenishing topsoil moisture following several days of warm, breezy weather.

Much warmer weather (up to 8°F above normal) overspread **Alaska**, ending a 5- to 6-week cool spell. Meanwhile in **Hawaii**, light showers were generally confined to **Kauai** and typically wetter windward locations, resulting in little change in the long-term drought situation.

While heavy rain further slows fieldwork in the Northeast, only scattered showers provide little relief to drought-stricken areas from eastern Louisiana to the southern Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico, a disturbance—later the first tropical depression of the 2000 Atlantic hurricane season—shows initial signs of organization. Farther north, much warmer, drier air overspreads the Midwest, aiding corn and soybean development in many areas, but stressing crops in still-dry portions of the southwestern Corn Belt, including southwestern Iowa, southeastern Nebraska, and northern Missouri.



U.S. Crop Production Highlights

The following information was released by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board on June 9, 2000. Forecasts refer to June 1.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, down 2 percent (%) from the May 1 forecast and 5% below 1999. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.7 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from the last forecast. Grain area totals 34.7 million acres, unchanged from May 1.

Hard Red production is down 3% from a month ago to 944 million bushels. White Winter is up 1% from last month to 229 million bushels. Soft Red is up 1% from the last forecast and now totals 448 million bushels.

The **all orange** production forecast for 1999-2000 is 13.0 million tons, up 1% from last month's forecast and 32% above last season's final utilization. Florida's all orange forecast is 230 million boxes (10.4 million tons), up 1% from the May forecast. If realized, it will be the second-largest crop on record and 24% higher than the 186 million boxes (8.37 million tons) utilized last season. Florida's Valencia forecast, at 96 million boxes (4.32 million tons), is 2% above last month's forecast and 30% higher than last season's final utilization.

Texas' orange production is forecast at 1.70 million boxes (73,000 tons), unchanged from last month. If realized, it will be 19% larger than last season's utilization and the State's largest orange crop since the 1988-89 season, when 1.85 million boxes were utilized. The California and Arizona forecasts are unchanged from April's forecast.